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CLAIMS CIA ROLE

War Hero Faces 152 U. S. Charges

AUSTIN, Tex., July 10 (UPI) — A Federal court jury today resumes deliberation into a Korean war hero's story that he thought he was preparing for a role as a Central Intelligence agent by writing bad checks on a cross-country trip.

Sergt. Bobby Joe Keesee of Amarillo, Tex., was charged with interstate transportation of a stolen car. The count was the first of 152 Federal charges filed against the 29-year-old AWOL soldier after he flew a stolen plane to Cuba March 23.

Keesee, winner of the Bronze Star and holder of the Purple Heart, testified yesterday that he flew two men to Cuba but thought he was doing it for the CIA.

SERGT. KEESEE

GAVE INSTRUCTIONS

He also admitted writing "99 to 100" bad checks while driving a rented car across the country from Alaska to Florida. Keesee said he was acting on instructions from a person he identified as "Buddy Carson," a CIA agent.

Keesee said Carson promised him $1200 a month for making the Cuban flight and the months of preparation for it. The crime spree was supposed to establish Keesee's claim for asylum in case he was caught in Cuba.

Keesee said he rented a light plane in Albuquerque, N. M., and flew Carson and a Latin American named "Jose" to a spot east of Havana where the pair parachuted. Cuban fighter planes forced him to land, said Keesee. He asked for political asylum, but was returned to Miami, Fla., by the Castro government after 49 days of questioning.

CIA ROLE

Keesee stoutly maintained under cross examination that he was acting for the CIA. U. S. Dist. Atty. Ernest Morgan argued that even the CIA cannot tell a person to violate the law.

William W. Wooldridge of [illegible] bought a car to Keesee on Jan. 19 for five days. He said when the auto was recovered on March 13 more than 13,000 additional miles were on the speedometer.

The prosecution said Keesee was aware of the short term rental contract when he began the hot check tour that took him from Huachuca, Ariz., to such cities as Anchorage, Alaska, and Key West, Fla.

Keesee said his witnesses have been "sent overseas" to keep them from testifying. He said he operated a private flying service at Nogales, Ariz., when Carson made his move. Keesee said he believed Carson had assumed responsibility for the checks and unpaid motel bills he accumulated.

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